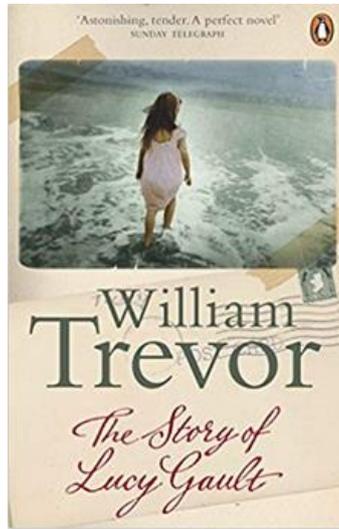


**UWC Book Club: Reading List for Spring/Summer 2019**

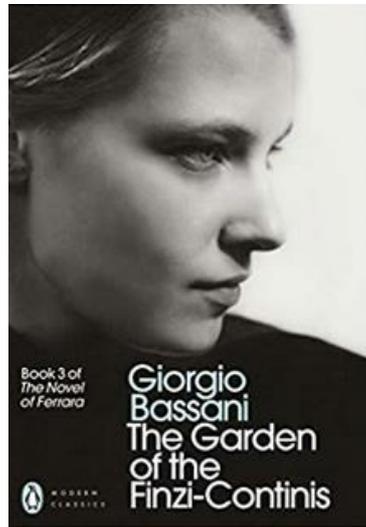
**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019: The Story of Lucy Gault  
by William Trevor**



*“Memories can be everything if we choose to make them so. But you are right: you mustn't do that.”*

It is the summer of 1921. Eight-year-old Lucy Gault clings to the glens and wild seashore near Lahardane - the home her family is being forced to abandon. She knows the Gaults are no longer welcome in Ireland and that danger threatens. Lucy, however, is headstrong and decides that somehow she must force her parents into staying. But the path she chooses sets off a series of tragic misunderstandings that affect all of Lahardane's inhabitants for the rest of their lives. Considered one of William Trevor's best novels, Hermione Lee called it, 'gravely beautiful, subtle and haunting'.

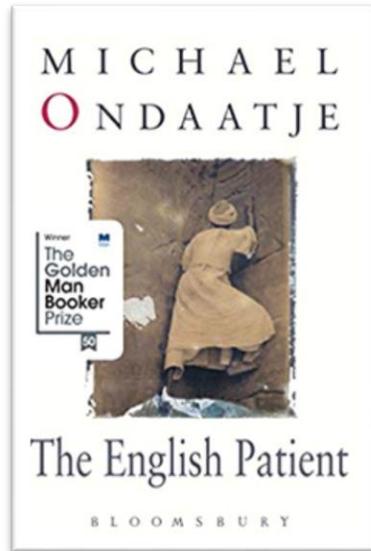
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2019: The Garden of the Finzi-Continis  
by Giorgio Bassani (translated by Jamie McKendrick)**



*“For me, no less than for her, the past counted far more than the present...”*

Giorgio Bassani's acclaimed novel of unrequited love and the plight of the Italian Jews on the brink of World War II has become a classic of modern Italian literature. The narrator, a young Jew in the city of Ferrara, has long been fascinated by the Finzi-Continis, a wealthy and aristocratic Jewish family, and especially by their daughter, Micol. But not until 1938 is he invited behind the walls of their lavish estate, as local Jews begin to gather there to avoid the newly introduced racial laws of the Fascists. The garden of the Finzi-Continis becomes an idyllic sanctuary in an increasingly brutal and dangerous world.

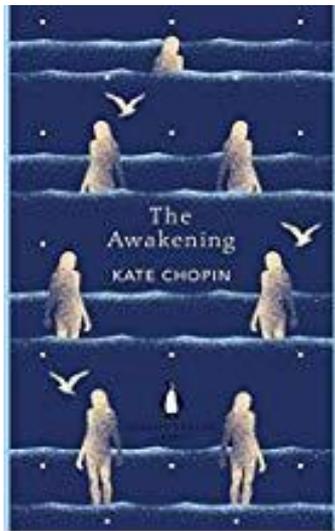
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019: *The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje



*“Everything that ever happened to me that was important happened in the desert.”*

Winner of the Golden Man Booker prize last year, *The English Patient* traces the story of four damaged lives in an Italian villa at the end of World War II. The exhausted nurse, Hana, the maimed thief, Caravaggio, and the wary sapper, Kip, are all haunted by the riddle of the English patient, the nameless, horribly burned man who lies in an upstairs room. They eventually learn the patient is not English but Hungarian – a desert explorer named Laslo Almasi, whose plane crashed in the Sahara. In a narrative that constantly intertwines the past and present, Almasi tells the story of his doomed love affair with a married woman and recounts his memories of passion and betrayal.

**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019: The Awakening by Kate Chopin**



*“The voice of the sea is seductive... inviting the soul to wander for a spell in abysses of solitude.”*

Kate Chopin’s short, beautifully written, novel is set in New Orleans and the Southern Louisiana coast at the end of the nineteenth century. The plot centres on a young, married woman, Edna Pontellier, and her struggle to reconcile her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century American South. It is one of the earliest American novels to focus on women's issues and when it was first published in 1899, it was widely condemned as vulgar and immoral. These days it is seen as a landmark work of early feminism and regarded as an American classic.